

REMARKS

I. Introduction

With the cancellation herein without prejudice of claim 7, claims 1 to 6 and 8 to 19 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. Allowed Claims 1 to 3 and 8 to 19

Applicants note with appreciation the indication that claims 1 to 3 and 8 to 19 are allowed.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter included in claim 7. In this regard, the Examiner will note that claim 4 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features included in claim 7. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claim 4, as well as claims 5 and 6, are in condition for immediate allowance.

IV. Rejection of Claims 4 to 6 Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Regarding the rejection of claims 4 to 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as indicated above, claim 4 has been amended herein without prejudice to include all of the features of claim 7, which was indicated to include allowable subject matter. As such, it is respectfully submitted that the present rejection is moot, and withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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